

(b) Prime Minister S.L. Rabuka of Fiji had sent a letter to the PM in September 1997 formally inviting India to reopen its Mission in Suva. The Government of India has accepted the invitation and proposes to reopen the Indian High Commission in Suva soon.

(c) The Government of India has conveyed to the Govt. of Fiji its hope and belief that the events of the past few years were an aberration which will be permanently set aside to enable all the people of Fiji to enjoy peace, progress and stability in a democratic political, social and economic set up which gives all citizens of Fiji an equal stake, opportunity and responsibility in the building of their nation. Hope has also been expressed that the new constitution of Fiji which seeks to end all discriminatory provisions of the earlier constitution will be implemented in letter and spirit. We have supported Fiji's re-entry into the Commonwealth based on our common commitment to the democratic principles enshrined in the Harare Declaration of the Commonwealth.

(d) The Government is in the process of working out and finalising administrative and other arrangements for the reopening of its High Commission in Suva soon.

Rural Electrification

148. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission had sanctioned an outlay of Rs. 40,000 crores for electrification of 50,000 villages and energisation of 25 lakhs pump-sets during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether only 30 per cent of target of rural electrification could be achieved during the period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being contemplated by the Government to meet the unaccomplished target of rural electrification in the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had approved an outlay of Rs. 4,000 crores for electrification of 50,000 villages and energisation of 25 lakh pumpsets during

the 8th Five Year Plan. However, the allocation to REC during his period was as under:

Year	Rs. in Crores
1992-93	510.00
1993-94	600.00
1994-95	654.85
1995-96	799.83
1996-97	783.00
Total	3347.68

(c) No, Sir. The targets for village electrification and Pumpsets energisation for the 8th Plan have been over-exceeded. As against the target of 14872 villages for electrification, the achievement was 17114 villages. For the pumpsets energisation the achievement was 1689371 against the target of 1208178.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) Government is according priority for electrification of unelectrified villages and energisation of pumpsets. For speedier electrification of such villages, Government of India is providing Financial assistance to the State Electricity/Boards/Electricity Departments of the States through REC on concessional terms and conditions.

Production of Uranium and Thorium

149. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of uranium and thorium produced in India and the places from where these mineral resources are obtained;

(b) whether uranium and thorium has been found in Lalitpur District of Uttar Pradesh and the details of other places in the country where reserves of the above minerals have been found;

(c) the time by which the Government propose to undertake the traction work of these mineral reserves;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to install some new reactors with foreign collaboration; and

(e) if so, the names of such countries with whose collaboration new reactors would be installed during this annual plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) At present, uranium is being recovered from the uranium deposits at Jaduguda, Bhatin, Narwapahar in Singhbhum District, Bihar, and also from the copper tailings of the copper mine in Singhbhum District, Bihar. Thorium as a part of monazite, is found mainly in the beach sand deposits of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Orissa & Andhra Pradesh. It is not in the national interest to disclose information about the production of uranium and thorium in the country.

(b) and (c) Uranium mineralisation was located at Sonrai-Pisnari, Lalitpur Dist., Uttar Pradesh. However, a detailed information indicated that it is not technically feasible and economically viable for mining/exploitation.

Uranium deposits occur at the following places in the country:

Place	District
Jaduguda Bhatin Narwapahar	Singhbhum Dist., Bihar
Turamdih Mohuldih Bagjata Garadih Kanyalika	Singhbhum Dist., Bihar
Domiasiat	West Khasi Hills Dist., Mghalaya
Lambapur	Nalgonda Dist. Andhra Pradesh
Tummalapalle	Cuddapah Dist., Andhra Pradesh

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Two units of 100 MWe Light Water Reactors are proposed at Koodankulam in Tamil Nadu with technical cooperation and financial assistance from the Russian Federation. However, these would not be installed during this annual plan (1997-98).

[English]

Transfer of Centrally Sponsored Scheme

150. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission propose to transfer 179 Centrally sponsored schemes to the States for their direct implementation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the State Governments thereto and the steps taken to ensure proper utilisation of the funds provided by the Central Government for these schemes;

(d) whether any complaints regarding diversion of the funds by the State Governments from one scheme to another have been received earlier; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard and time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (e) An exercise was done in Planning Commission on the question of transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) to the States. A note on the subject was sent to concerned Central Ministries/Departments and all States/UT Governments for their comments. Based on the replies received a revised note on the subject is being prepared for the approval of the Full Planning Commission and National Development Council (NDC). In line with the Approach Paper, a process of joint plan formulation and joint monitoring would also be evolved between the Planning Commission, Centrally Ministries/Depts. and the State Governments.

[Translation]

Treatment Schemes for Various Diseases

151. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes under which assistance is being provided to the people living below poverty line for the treatment of cancer, kidney and heart ailments and other incurable serious diseases;

(b) the amounts provided to each State under these during the last three years; and

(c) the estimated number of persons benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) A Statement explaining the schemes (a) NIAF (b) Health Minister's Discretionary Grant, is enclosed.

(b) The details of the releases made by the Ministry under the various schemes are as under: